

# Rotary Club of Alamance

**Gold Club**

Rotary International Presidential Citation  
100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club

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## Club News

### June 23, 2015 Meeting

A very happy club President Sang Ho Lee conducted his last meeting. Pete Beck gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Sang said he enjoyed the support he received during the past year. Kudos, Sang!

### Guests and Visitors

- Dean Jones introduced his friend and employee, David Higham, who has an MBA from Elon, is an Eagle Scout, owns Higham Ventures, and conducts the business affairs for the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre.
- Dale Greeson introduced two guests: Graham Albright, an intern at Apple, Bell, and Johnson Accountants, and Matthew Banko, who is a CPA and Financial Controller at Alamance Community College. Matthew is a prospective member.

### General Announcements

- President Lee mentioned recent and upcoming member birthdays and anniversaries, which are listed [here](#).
- Sang also read Susan Watson's name to the club for the second time. Since there was no objection, she will become a member next week. Welcome to the club, Susan!
- President Lee thanked Deva Reece for repairing the broken bell. Katie will have everything she needs next week.
- Steve Carter reported that Julian Griffin is well and should be back with us next week.
- Dick O'Donnell announced that signup sheets were on each table, in case anyone wished to take part in the District Rotary Family Night outing on Saturday, July 25, at the Greensboro ballpark. He also mentioned that a card was being passed around to wish Amy Segposyan well as she prepares to leave for her grand adventure as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. He told us that we are looking for a host family for a female Thai student who is coming here as part of the RYE. Details have been forwarded to all club members via email. Lastly he said that the Courtyard Marriot will be hosting the next Chamber Business After Hours event on Tuesday, June 20 from 5:30 - 7 pm. Katie

Dukeshire cordially invites all club members to join the fun and make some new friends.

- Pete Beck asked for volunteers to help write summaries for the meetings that will go on the website. After Sam Holt converts the site to WordPress, it will be easy for a team to take over writing the summaries so that it is not such a load on one person. Let Pete know if you are willing to help.

## Upcoming Programs

- June 30: Installation of New Officers and Board, Phil Moseley, ADG, presiding
- July 7 - Angela Parham: Craig Edwards, a recent liver transplant recipient, will discuss his journey and the importance and future of organ donation.
- July 14 - Pete Sargent

## Happy Clams

- Pete Beck announced that he and Martha now have eight grandkids. James Solomon Beck was born to his son, Clark, and his wife, Leslie, last week in Greensboro. Congrats to Pete and Martha and Clark and Leslie!
- David Moore said being married to Cathy for 43 years has been great. Congrats, David.
- Steve Carter told us that former ACC Rotoract President, Bobby Petty, will be soon joining our club.
- Bonnie Whitaker informed us that she has been happily married for 35 years and will soon have another grandchild. Congrats, Bonnie.
- Francois said that his daughter and nephew are soon to be married and off his payroll. They did things right by first getting their education. Congrats, Francois!



### **Ed Woodall: Husband, Father, Coach, Banker, Club Past President, and Paul Harris Fellow**

Ed has been a member of our club since 2007. He is a commercial loan officer at Carolina Bank and is married to Danielle, with whom he has three children. He is involved with coaching in youth leagues. He will soon pass from being Immediate Past President into Rotary legend. Close to his heart, Ed informed us that he lost a sister some thirty-one years ago to cancer and that the Make-a-Wish Foundation gave the family a trip. That made for a perfect introduction of our speaker.

### **Program: Jodi Justice - Development Coordinator for the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina**

Jodi opened her remarks by saying how much she enjoys speaking at Rotary where we have so much fun. Every 38 minutes Make-A-Wish® grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition in the United States and its territories. It believes that a wish experience can be a game-changer. This one belief guides them in everything they do and inspires them to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids they serve.

The Foundation started in 1980 to help a young boy with leukemia. During a long nighttime stakeout while kneeling in some desert weeds in the spring of 1980, U.S. Customs Agent Tommy Austin, the co-founder of Make-A-Wish®, told Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer, Ron Cox, his problem. His wife's friend, Linda, had a small son named Chris Greicius, who was probably going to die of leukemia. The seven-year-old boy yearned to be a police officer "to catch bad guys" with Austin. Having run into bureaucratic road blocks at Customs, Austin asked Cox if maybe DPS could do something. "I'll rent a helicopter myself if I have to," Austin said.

Cox took the request to DPS spokesman, Allan Schmidt, who asked DPS Director, Ralph Milstead, if something could be done. He gave Schmidt *carte blanche* to grant Chris' wish. Soon Austin received a call from Chris' mom saying that she doesn't think he can hang on much longer. "None of us had any idea what we were getting into at the time," Schmidt recalled 30 years later. He drew other people into the schem. Officer Jim Eaves would bring his patrol car, and Officer

Frank Shankwitz, his motorcycle, to meet the DPS helicopter flying Chris to headquarters. On April 29, Chris came from Scottsdale Memorial Hospital to the empty lot by DPS at Lewis and 19th Avenue. There he and his parents were given a tour. That's when Lt. Col. Dick Schaefer gave the boy a "Smokey the Bear" hat and one of his own old badges, and Chris became Arizona's first and only honorary DPS officer.



Everyone who met the beaming boy chewing bubble gum wanted to help. At the end of the day, some of those involved met in a spontaneous group hug and realized they didn't want that day to be the end of it. They also knew they didn't have much time. Two of them, Cox and Eaves, went to John's Uniforms, the business that makes all DPS uniforms, and ordered one in Chris' size. Employees worked all night to have it ready the next day. A group of officers took the uniform to his house, where Shankwitz set up cones for Chris to steer his battery-powered motorcycle through to qualify for a motorcycle officer's wings. But when they returned the next day to present the wings to Chris, he had gone back into the hospital. With his DPS gifts all around him, clutching his new wings, Chris gave a last smile for the men who had done so much for him in such a short time. He passed on May 3. He was only seven years, 269 days old when he died. But Tommy Austin said that he taught him much about being a man; even though he was only a boy. Austin said that because of meeting Chris, he is an entirely different man. Ron Cox said the same thing.

From the time the two officers landed in Chicago to when they left again, word spread of their story, and they were amazed at how strangers were affected by it. They talked on the flight home of making this the beginning of something wonderful for children. Meanwhile in Phoenix, similar discussions were taking place. At an officer's retirement party, Shankwitz talked to Kathy McMorris, the wife of a DPS officer, about creating a wish-granting organization. That summer, a group of working-class DPS officers, friends and family gathered. That meeting marked the beginning of Make-A-Wish.



The first donation was \$15, given to Shankwitz by a grocery store manager. For months records, bills and change were kept in envelopes carried around by the founders. In November of 1980 the group received its tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization. By the following spring the group raised \$2000 and granted its first official wish.

The Central and Western NC Chapter includes fifty-one counties stretching from Alamance County to the Tennessee border. Last year the local chapter granted 260 wishes with money raised by our chapter and from the national organization. The are four types of wishes: a destination (mainly Disney), a wish to be someone (such as Chris' desire to be a policeman), a wish to have something (such as a laptop or shopping spree), and a wish to meet someone (such as Minnie Mouse). Jodi said the biggest challenge for her chapter is to raise awareness. Make-a-Wish needs volunteers, referrals, and funding. The average

wish cost \$6000. Each year about 10 to 15 children are granted wishes who live in Alamance County. All children are accepted if they meet the minimum criteria of being between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 years old, live in the region, and have a confirmed life-threatening condition. Most referrals come from doctors, and most of Alamance County children are referred by Duke Medicine. Make-a-Wish makes a high priority of trying to raise awareness among medical professionals.

At the end of the presentation, President Lee presented Jodi and her Elon University intern, Emily Vandermast, with plaques to show our appreciation for their coming to our meeting to present their



## Card Drawing

No drawing occurred this week since the deck was temporarily lost and Katie took the bucket with her. Sadly, this one black spot mars the otherwise fabulous tenure of President Sang Ho Lee. It is a shame he lost control of this one area so near his retirement. Only 45 cards stand between you, the jack of hearts, and the pot. Your odds are getting better every week, provided we can locate the cards and the bucket next time.

## Closing

As is our custom, we all stood to recite the Rotary Four Way Test, which was led by President Lee, who afterward adjourned the meeting. Until next week...



## Installation Ceremony for District Governor Larry Lassiter

Katie Dukeshire, Lane Jones and her husband Charles, and Randy Perkins and his wife Reida attended the installation meeting for incoming District Governor Larry Lassiter Tuesday evening at the Pinewood Country Club in Asheboro, NC. (Pictured: Seated, L-R: Charles Jones, Lane Jones, and Reida Perkins. Standing L-R: Russell Guy from the Graham Rotary Club, ADG Phil Moseley, and President-Elect Katie Dukeshire from our club)

# Club Related Dates

## District and Club Business

- **2nd Tuesday of Each Month** - For officers and committee chairs, 11 am until Noon.
- **June 30, 2015** - Installation of New Officers and Board

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

June	Birthdays	June	Wedding Anniversaries
5	Sam Powell	2	Pete and Martha Beck
9	Paul Mauney	5	Steve and Judy Carter
13	Betty Andrews	7	Chuck and Vicki Stedman
19	Don Jennings	17	Sid and Ann Little
22	Mac Williams	23	Mark and Judy LaFerriere David and Cathy Moore Brian and Patty Dement
23	Dale Greeson	24	Dale and Ellen Greeson
30	Randy Perkins	25	Philip and Rene Smith
		28	Bonnie and Jerry Whitaker

July	Birthdays	July	Wedding Anniversaries
3	Dan Seiler	3	Gail and Jerry Moore
15	Philip Stewart	31	Don and Beth Jennings
30	Ryan Keur		

Want to see when you have program speaker responsibilities? Simply click on the Programs Schedule link below or the same link on the menu above.

## Programs Schedule



Meets on Tuesdays from Noon until 1 PM at 40 West Grill in the Ramada Inn in Burlington, NC

Club 6090, District 7690 Piedmont NC  
Chartered March 31, 1981